

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     An air bubble massage bathtub mat system comprising:  
2                   an air pump that provides a source of compressed air;  
3                   a mat having at least one air passage and a plurality of air outlet  
4     holes;  
5                   a hose connecting the air pump to the air passage in the mat;  
6                   a controller for controlling operation of the air pump; and  
7                   a remote control unit capable of communicating with the controller  
8     but not being physically connected to the controller.

1                   2.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein the remote control unit has a infrared transmitter that communicates with  
3     an infrared receiver in the controller by infrared transmissions.

1                   3.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein the controller has a control panel that has a plurality of switches for  
3     controlling air pump.

1                   4.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 3  
2     wherein the remote control unit has switches for controlling the same functions as  
3     the control panel.

1                   5.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein the controller has a switch that controls a heating element for heating  
3     compressed air.

1                   6.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein the controller and the remote control unit have switches for controlling  
3     massage programs, a timer, a heater and the air pump speed.

1                   7.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein the controller has programmable cycles for varying the speed of operation  
3     of the air pump over time to provide variation in the vigorousness of the massage.

1                   8.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein the mat is formed of flexible material that may be rolled up for storage.

1                   9.     The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 8  
2     wherein the flexible material includes a soft vinyl material.

1                   10.    The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein a recess is formed on a housing of the air pump for storing the remote  
3     control unit.

1                   11.    The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1  
2     wherein a bracket is provided that is adapted to be secured to a supporting surface  
3     for storing remote control unit.

1                   12.    The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 1 further  
2     including a plurality of suction cups secured to a bottom surface of the mat for  
3     providing a detachable connection to the bathtub.

1                   13.    The air bubble massage bathtub mat system of claim 12  
2     wherein the suction cups are formed of a composite material including a polymeric  
3     material adapted to be secured to the mat and a rubber material adapted to provide  
4     a detachable connection to the bathtub.

1                   14.    An air bubble massage bathtub mat for a air bubble massage  
2     system that provides compressed air to the mat when the mat is disposed in a  
3     bathtub, comprising:  
4                   a flexible member having at least two layers defining a plurality of  
5     air passages;

6 a receptacle through which the compressed air is provided to the air  
7 passages;  
8 a plurality of air holes formed in the air passages through which  
9 compressed air is emitted from the air passages into the bathtub; and  
10 a plurality of flexible blocks secured between the layers defining the  
11 plurality of air passages at spaced locations adjacent the air passages.

1 15. The air bubble massage bathtub mat for an air bubble massage  
2 system of claim 14 wherein the flexible member includes a soft vinyl material.

1 16. The air bubble massage bathtub mat for a air bubble massage  
2 system of claim 14 wherein the at least two layers of the flexible member are  
3 polymer sheet material secured together at spaced locations to define the air  
4 passages.

1 17. The air bubble massage bathtub mat for a air bubble massage  
2 system of claim 14 wherein the air holes are limited in size and number to provide  
3 a flow restriction that causes the air passages to be inflated when compressed air is  
4 provided to the air passages.

1 18. The air bubble massage bathtub mat for a air bubble massage  
2 system of claim 14 wherein each of the flexible blocks are enclosed in a sealed  
3 chamber formed of polymer sheet material having seams that define the air passages  
4 and sealed chambers, wherein the air passages and sealed chambers are separate  
5 from each other.

1 19. The air bubble massage bathtub mat for a air bubble massage  
2 system of claim 14 wherein two layers of thermoplastic sheet material are bonded  
3 together about the periphery of the flexible member, the two layers are also bonded  
4 together around the flexible blocks and thereby define the air passages in a branched  
5 array.